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PLEASE RETURN MONTANA EMPLOYMENT

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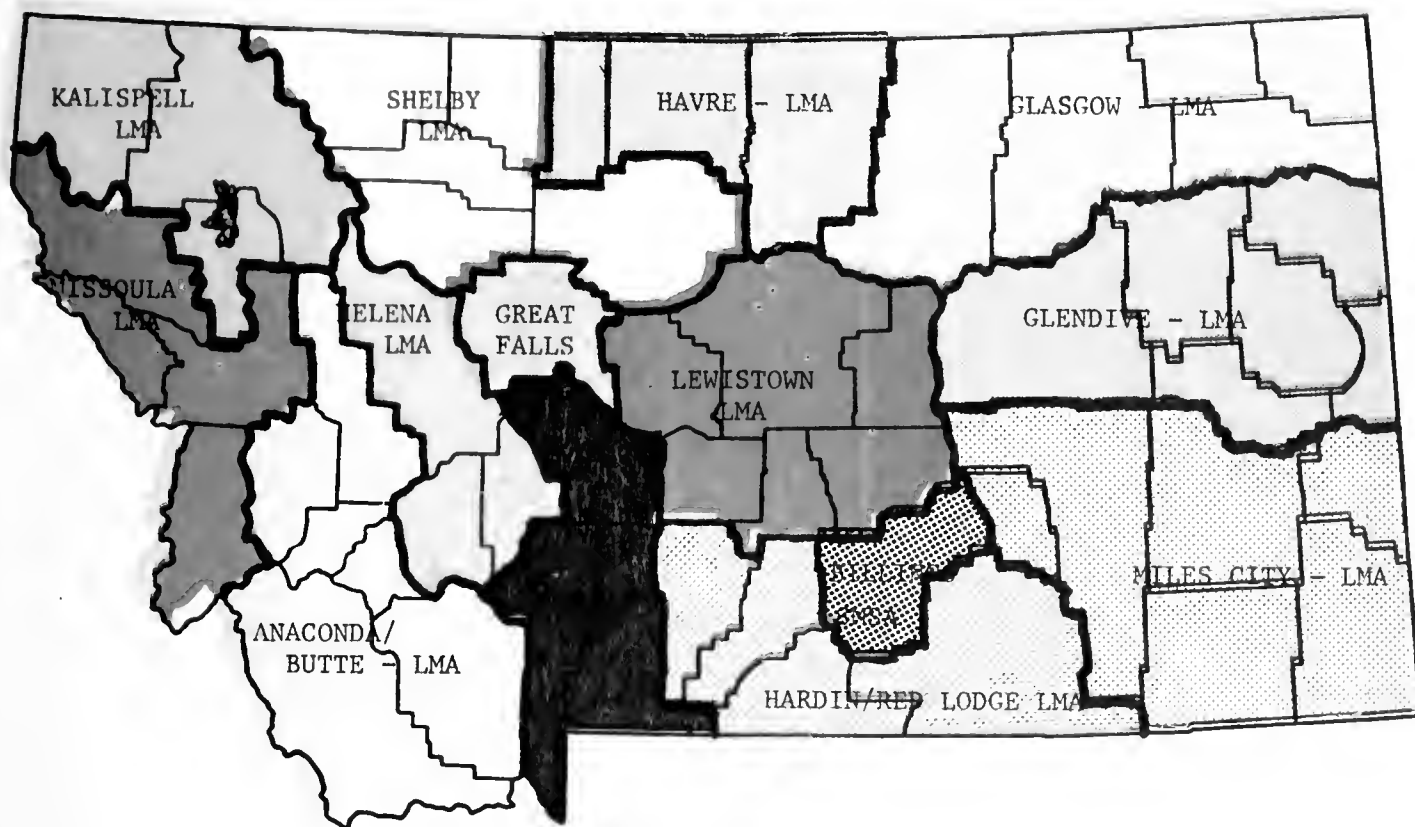
LABOR FORCE

JANUARY 1979

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MONTANA EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE

MONTHLY REPORT

January 1979

STATE OF MONTANA

THOMAS L. JUDGE, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
DAVID E. FULLER, COMMISSIONER

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
FRED BARRETT, ADMINISTRATOR

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
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Volume 9 Number 1

Produced by:
Research and Analysis
in cooperation with the
U. S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

1. Civilian Labor Force - the number of persons 16 years and older, defined as employed or unemployed, excluding members of the Armed Forces.
2. Employed - those persons who work for pay or profit during a week or, as unpaid family workers, work 15 hours or more during a week. Also included as employed are those who, although not working, had some job attachment and were not looking for work, including persons temporarily absent from a job due to illness, bad weather, vacation, or labor-management dispute, whether or not they were in a pay status during their time off.
3. Unemployment - the number of persons who, for an entire week, did not work at all, were able to work and available for work, and (1) were looking for work or (2) would have looked for work except that (a) they were waiting to return to a job from which they had been laid off, or (b) they were waiting to report to a new wage and salary job scheduled to start within the following 30 days (and were not in school during the week).
4. Unemployment Rate - the number of unemployed expressed as a percent of the civilian labor force.
5. Residence Data - a count of employment by where people live.
6. Establishment Data - a count of employment by where people work.
7. Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Series - to facilitate the evaluation of the labor force, recurrent yearly movements have been isolated and removed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics seasonal factor method.
8. Composite Index - an aggregate of six leading indicators. The indicators used are: Manufacturing - Employment, Average Weekly Hours, total Accessions and Layoffs; Average Weekly Initial Claims; and statewide Building Permits. A reverse trend was used for Layoffs and Average Weekly Initial Claims. This composite index is in no manner or form comparable to the United States composite index as published in "Business Conditions Digest", U. S. Department of Commerce.
9. Real Spendable Average Weekly Earnings of Private Nonagricultural Production Workers - represents the earnings of a hypothetical individual after deductions for State Income, Federal Income and Social Security taxes, and adjustment for change in purchasing power since 1967. This individual is assumed to be sole support for a family of four, earn the average weekly gross earnings of production workers in Montana's private nonagricultural industries, and take standard deductions on State and Federal income taxes. Taxes were computed using standard tax tables, and purchasing power was adjusted by deflating Spendable Earnings based on the national Consumer Price Index.
10. WIN - Work Incentive Program for Aid to Dependent Children recipients.
11. CETA - Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1974.
12. CETA-CEP - Concentrated Employment Program funded under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act.
13. SMSA - Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area as determined by Office of Management and Budget. Must have a central city with population of 50,000 or more.
14. LMA - Labor Market Area as determined by the Montana Employment Security Division consists of a central city or cities with population of less than 50,000, and the economically integrated geographical area surrounding it.

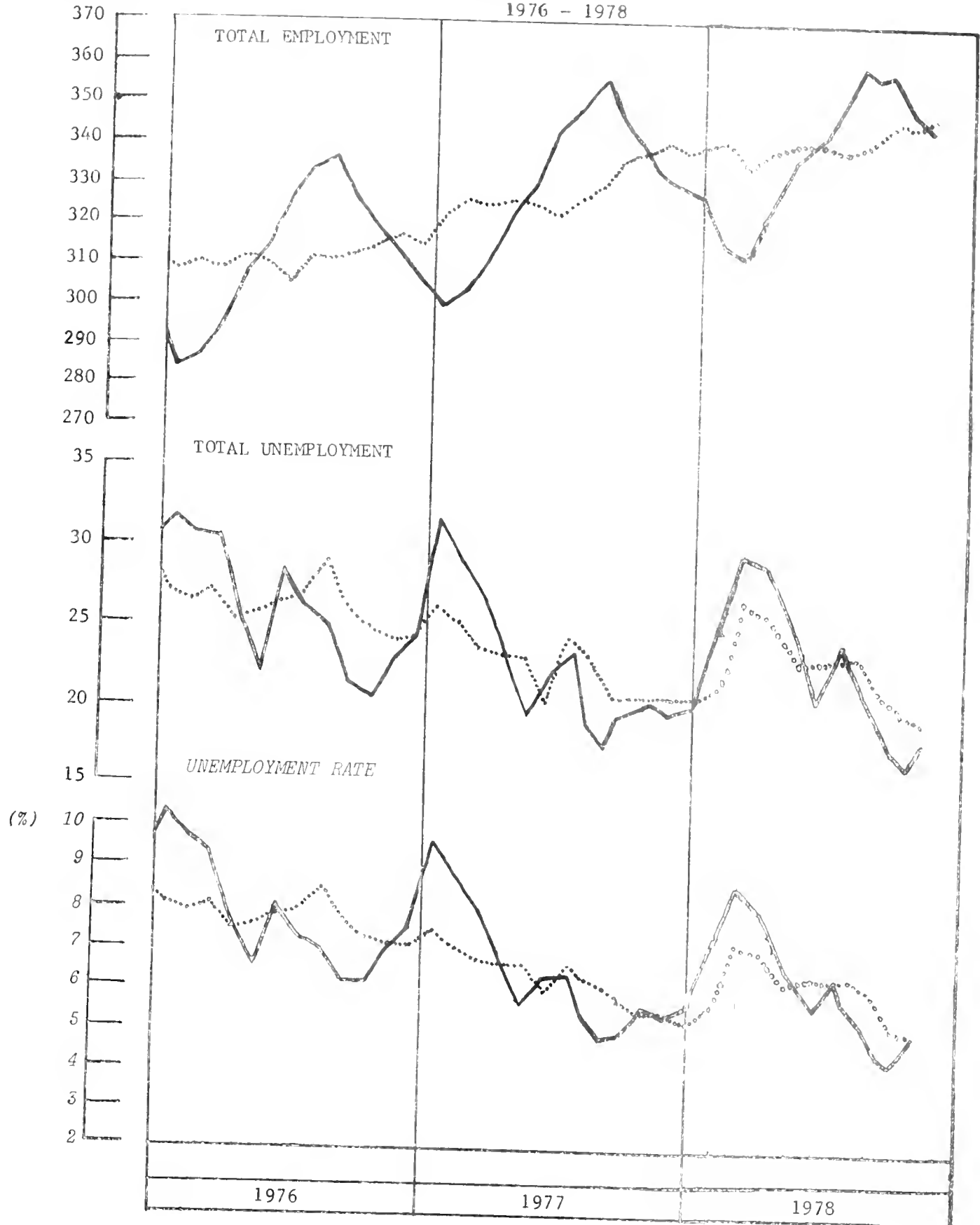
MONTANA EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: —)

(SEASONALLY ADJUSTED:)

1976 - 1978

(Thousands)



All Labor Force Statistics contained in this publication are in accordance with the Federal guidelines as established by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Methodology procedures use a household sample conducted in Montana on a monthly basis, called the Current Population Survey. These official statistics are used to allocate federal funding. Any questions concerning these figures should be directed to:

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STATEWIDE HIGHLIGHTS



Unemployment for the state rose by 1,900 during December as 19,900 were tallied as jobless. The figure is, however, down from last December's 20,800 level. The unemployment rate is now 5.6% an increase from November's 5.0% but well below the 6.1% recorded in December of 1977.

Seasonal declines occurred again this month in the civilian labor force and employment figures, but both still show steady gains over last year's similar figures. The civilian labor force is at 355,000 a 5.1% jump over last December's statistic, while employment has grown by 5.7% to a level of 335,100 during the same period.

Layoffs and shutdowns continued this month as the extreme cold and snow continued to effect the Montana economy. The early season cold has curtailed virtually all outside activity of any type, in fact even Montana's ski resorts had to cease operations due to the severe conditions, ironically during the peak holiday season.

The legislative session has opened, and as is the case nationwide, taxes and budget items highlight the reports. Talk of tax and budget cuts is much in evidence as the maneuvering commences. These fiscal matters could have some definite impacts on the state's economy and will be watched carefully.

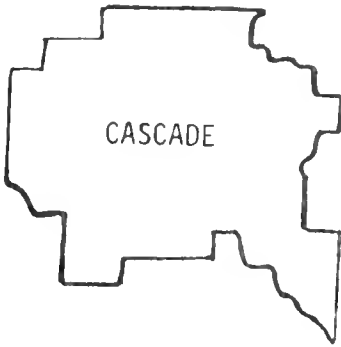
Agricultural interests are becoming somewhat concerned over the excessive early season feeding activities brought on by the weather. The supply and price of feed could go up if the cold lingers. Another impact could be felt if the severe conditions are still here as calving begins.

The retail sector has reported layoffs of help after the holiday season but these were, of course, to be expected. An excellent sales season was noted by most retail outlets throughout the state.

The price of copper is rising on the national markets but no effect has been felt yet in Montana. The changing price situation may help the mining and processing industries rebound from their losses of recent years.

The composite index has moved slightly downward in the past months but no trend is yet apparent. Inflation continues to be a major problem as shown by a drop in the Real Spendable income over the past month. The effect of inflation is probably best noted by the fact that although gross wages have climbed since last November the Real Spendable calculation has declined. The Montana economy is at its normal seasonal lull, but should continue on its course of steady, stable growth.

Employment and Unemployment Situation:



The civilian labor force seems to have stabilized with the winter season. December's count of 35,100 was the same as October's and only 100 below November's tally. There also was very little change from last year's 35,000 persons. The slow growth can mostly be attributed to the agrarian nature of the economy, but it should be noted other underlying factors have an effect. Employment numbers declined from October's 33,200 to November's 33,000 to reach 32,700 in December. Last year the December employment count was 100 above the current number at 32,800.

Because of lowered employment and stable labor force numbers the unemployment rate has risen to 6.9%. October's jobless rate was 5.5% and compared favorably to November's 6.3%.

Last year's rate of 6.2% reiterates below average economic trends but should be tempered by the more adverse winter conditions faced this December.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Great Falls economic activity has slowed down due to the inclement weather. Construction projects have been halted until snow and cold temperatures will permit. Agricultural hiring has been infrequent with occasional calls for general farm work and supplemental feeding.

Retail and service related trade seemed optimistic with many new planned and actual starts. Two full service restaurants, a racquet club, a fast food outlet, two supermarket chain stores, and 36,000 square foot industrial park are all in various stages of development or planning. Vaughn reported the communication corporation has spent \$109,000 expanding its facilities and Ulm noted \$14,000 was spent updating equipment at its branch.

Hiring was spotty as a manufacturing plant recalled 22 of its workers with no expectation of layoffs. The retail and wholesale sector has been the most active with calls varying from week to week. Demand was slow in the service related areas as was construction and other weather dependent sectors.

Another economic benefit to the area is a privately supported college campus. It has been estimated that the 1,252 students spend approximately \$2,900,000 off-campus and the school itself has a budget of \$2,881,889.

BILLINGS SMSA (Yellowstone County)



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

December's civilian labor force of 53,900 was 1,000 better than one year ago for the SMSA. For November, the civilian labor force was 100 less than December. Employment remained unchanged from December at 51,600 and 1,000 better than one year ago. In comparison to last year, employment declines occurred in the government and construction sectors, while noticeable gains occurred in the transportation, public utilities, wholesale/retail trade, services, and mining sectors. It is seasonal at this time of year to have employment drops in construction and employment increases in the trade sector. The current number of job holders rose 2.0% over last year.

The unemployment rate for the SMSA moved to 4.3% from 3.0% in October and 4.1% in November. Much of the unemployment rate increase resulted from the continued winter weather that does not permit outside work activities. The number of unemployed in December increased by 100 to 2,300 from the previous month and the number is the same as one year ago.

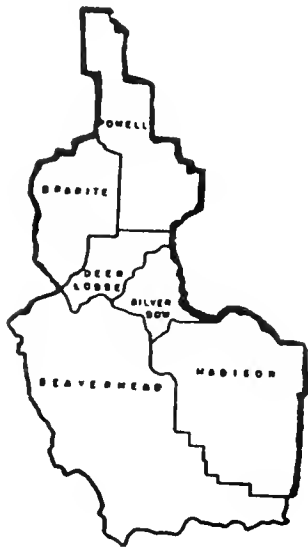
Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The seasonal slowdown in the construction sector continues because of winter weather conditions. Some construction activities continue, but are isolated to major projects in progress at the onset of winter. The recent opening of several restaurants in the area has created shortages of food service workers. This shortage is expected to continue as four new restaurants will be opening in the area this spring.

An out-of-state firm has indicated they will construct a racquet ball court with 20 plus courts in the near future. Construction and expansion of medical facilities is expected to proceed this spring in conjunction with the current expansion of a local hospital. Preliminary approval has been granted for a residential area with recreational facilities near Huntley. A downtown bank will be adding a \$3 million addition to their existing facility. A merger has been approved for two local transportation firms. A 64 unit retirement apartment complex has been issued a building permit. An East Billings shopping center will add approximately 30 shops this spring as weather permits. A supermarket has opened in Laurel with employment of 50. Another shop employing four persons dealing in clothing opened in a West Billings shopping center. A labor dispute idling approximately 30 employees for four days was settled early in the month. The employees returned to work upon settlement. A local firm closed its doors affecting 16 workers. Many of the workers laid off by this closure have found other employment.

The planned expansion or construction of many businesses this spring along with the projects currently underway, point towards an outlook that appears good. A total of 240 commercial building permits with a value of nearly \$24.5 million were issued in Billings during 1978, during the same period, 907 residential permits valued at \$28.8 million were issued. Construction in 1979, that is similar to the construction pattern of the past two years, will maintain the SMSA's continually increasing economic profile.

Employment and Unemployment Situation:



The December civilian labor force for the LMA totaled 34,400 which was 2,000 greater than December one year ago. In comparison to November, this represents a decrease of 500 persons. Employment also fell during this period from 32,800 to 32,200. Seasonal contractions account for labor force and employment declines during this period particularly in the agricultural, timber and construction industry sectors. Employment growth is indicated when compared to one year ago when employment measured 30,000.

December's unemployment rate was measured at 6.2%. November's rate was measured at 5.9% and one year ago the rate was 7.5%. The jobless count for December totaled 2,200, or 100 more than the preceding month, which was 200 less than one year ago.

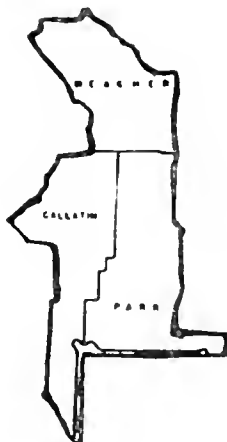
Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Persistent, extreme cold weather accompanied by heavy snowfall in the LMA has curtailed a majority of outdoor activities. Most affected have been construction, logging, and winter recreation. Some activity was reported for highway construction in the area, with the remainder of construction activities being confined to indoor work. Neither a high demand for workers or a greater than normal post-Christmas layoff were reported for the retail trade sector.

Anaconda reports no significant activities affecting its labor area. Demolition of a local motel in Butte will commence soon in preparation of the construction of a new motel-restaurant and health spa complex. A building permit has been issued for the construction of a mobile home sales and storage warehouse also in Butte. An award has been granted to an out-of-state firm to conduct work at the MHD component development test facility that will employ 50-60 persons. In Dillon, the opening of a new hardware store and warehouse for a local feed firm were reported for the period.

No dramatic employment increases are forecasted for the next few months due to seasonal weather conditions. Outdoor activities could increase if mild winter conditions were to prevail. Local trade activities are expected to continue in their seasonal patterns.

BOZEMAN LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The number of unemployed individuals grew by 200 during the month to a December level of 1,300, also above the 1,200 in December of 1977. The jobless rate is now 4.7% up from November's 3.7% and October's 3.3%, a normal wintertime increase. The rate compared favorably with last December's 5.0%.

The civilian labor force and employment levels show substantial growth over last December's figures. The civilian labor force is now at 26,900 a 13.5% increase over the December 1977 level. The figure is down from

November's 29,000 a normal occurrence for this time of the year. Employment for December is calculated to be 25,600, or 13.8% above last December's level. It too, shows the weather's influence as it dropped by 2,300 from November's 27,900 figure.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Inclement weather continues to influence the local labor market as snow and extreme cold persisted through most of the period. Most construction projects have ceased resulting in a jump in unemployment claims. Some logging activity is still occurring in the high country, but has been slowed somewhat by below zero temperatures.

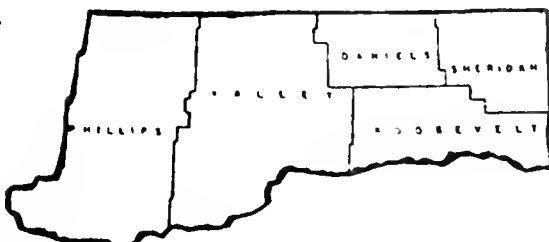
The fields in the area continue to be snow covered so the main agricultural activity for the season is feeding operations. The local Job Service office reports several orders for feeders in rural areas and some demand for farm and ranch couples.

The retail sector reported a somewhat slower holiday season than last year. The service sector felt some impact from the extremely cold weather as the peak holiday ski crowds were way down as it was even too cold to ski.

Some holiday layoffs were noted in the service and manufacturing sectors. The service workers were laid off as a result of the ending of the academic term at the university. The manufacturing layoff was a normal holiday break at a housing manufacturer in the area.

Reports from the area indicate that building permits for both November and December were far below last year's numbers and value. This is normally the slow time of the year for construction, but this indicator shows some slowing in the area's growth.

GLASGOW LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The unemployment rate for December was 3.9% as was November's rate. One year ago the jobless rate stood at 5.4%. The October rate was 3.8% and evidenced the stable nature of the LMA. The number of unemployed persons tallied at 600 for December and the two preceding months. The current figure is 300 below last year's count.

GLASGOW LMA (Cont.)

The civilian labor force continued contracting from October's 15,800 to November's 15,400 to reach 14,500 in December. The 1977 count was 16,000, 9.4% above the current number. Employment also dropped during the last three months with October at 15,200, November at 14,800, and December at 13,900. One year ago job holders numbered 15,100. The decline of the labor force and employment level is a result of both seasonal and agricultural trends.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Business activity for the LMA during the year measured on the plus side. Most retail and wholesale establishments closed their 1978 books and reported gross receipts well above last year.

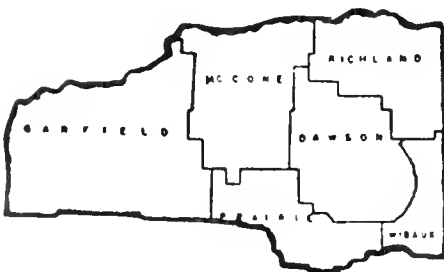
The Job Corps representative visited Poplar during December to screen applicants and process those awaiting assignment. Eight Poplar individuals were laid off at the manufacturing plant due to a production cutback by the firms supplier.

In Glasgow employment was generally up as the recreational club and manor projects are closed in, allowing indoor work to continue. Winter preparation and related agricultural activity has remained stable.

The packing plant remains closed after supply and weather caused problems forced it to shutdown. Most housing projects for the area remain idle as cold temperatures continue. Mechanical breakdowns were listed as the reason for staff layoffs of approximately two weeks at the mining facility.

The labor market area in general shows an improvement over last year, and the employment slowdown is a normal seasonal occurrence.

GLENDIVE LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force declined from 13,800 in November to 13,000 in December. This year's December figure indicates a decline of 300 from one year ago. Likewise, decreases were also noted in employment. November's employment of 13,500 fell to 12,600 in December. Compared to one year ago, December's employment was 300 less.

Again, Glendive LMA had the lowest unemployment rate in the state with 3.1%. Jobless persons in December totaled 400 which was 100 more than the previous month and the same as one year ago. The unemployment rate increased from 2.6% the previous month to 3.1% in December, but was slightly behind last year's rate of 3.3% in December.

GLENDIVE LMA (Cont.)

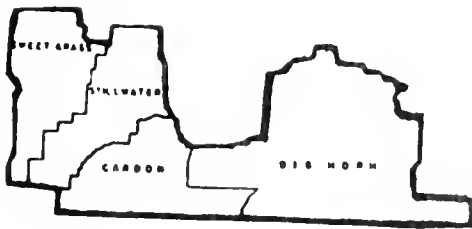
Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Oilfield activity has severely curtailed as a result of recent cold, snowy weather. Declines in the trade sector have occurred as a result of this weather. Construction activities are currently isolated to indoor projects.

In Glendive, the opening of a restaurant provided employment for 55 persons, while two businesses relocated into a new building. Activity on an oil pipeline near Wibaux was in progress with 12 to 15 workers. Work on this project should continue until March. The sugar beet campaign continues on schedule providing employment in both the manufacturing and transportation sectors. A financial institution recently opened an additional office in Sidney.

Activities will increase in the agricultural sector with the onset of spring calving within the next 30 days. As weather conditions become warmer, activity is expected to increase in oilfield production. Demands for oilfield workers should create shortages as activity increases. It is expected that these shortages will be temporary, with skilled workers returning to the area as warmer weather arrives.

HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force fell by 400 persons from November to December to 11,100. Employment fell from 10,900 to 10,500 during the same period. Such drops in the civilian labor force and employment are seasonal for this LMA. In comparison to December of last year, the civilian labor force is 200 greater and the number of unemployed is also 200 greater.

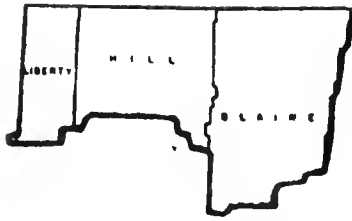
Unemployment showed no change from November to December at 600 jobless, but because of the drop in the civilian labor force the unemployment rate increased from 4.8% to 5.7%. Last year's December number of unemployed was 600 for an unemployment rate. A larger labor force this year in comparison to last year accounts for the lower unemployment rate this year.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Much of the LMA's economic activity is tied to agriculture which at this time is idled due to heavy snows and continued cold. On the other hand, heavy snows have been beneficial for area winter resorts. Anticipated growth in energy development has been slowed because of a breakdown in negotiations between the energy owners and a major national company wanting to develop the energy.

A job day has occurred to prepare area job seekers in obtaining employment for the summer. The session was presented by 17 federal and state agencies for jobs at an area Indian reservation. Area agricultural operations, presently committed to livestock feeding, will intensify as calving commences in mid-February. The Bear Creek mining operation has no change from last month. No opening date of resumed operations is available.

HAVRE LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The jobless rate for the LMA reached 5.5% in December, up from last December's 4.9% rate and a sizeable jump from this November's 4.2%. The number of unemployed persons is at 600 a seasonal increase from November's 500, but equal to the 600 noted in December of 1977.

The civilian labor force is 800 lower than it was a year ago and registers 11,300 persons in December. The number of employed individuals has taken an even larger drop of 1,200 from last December's 11,900 to the 10,700 figured for December of 1978. The losses are of course substantial, but are probably due to the early onslaught of extremely cold weather this year.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Weather conditions restricted most outside economic activity during the past month. Almost all construction has been curtailed with a sharp increase noted in unemployment insurance claims by construction workers. Exploration drilling has ceased as the equipment has frozen up with resultant layoffs. Agricultural activities have been restricted by the climate although feeding operations have increased due to the weather.

The wholesale and retail sector has been about the only area of activity with some hires noted. The stores in the new shopping mall are opening as they are completed.

A report from the local Chamber of Commerce indicates that an Industry Development Council is being formed to promote development in Havre. The council is looking for new and expanded firms that will employ local people and increase the tax base.

HELENA LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

Employment in the LMA grew by 500 during the month to a December level of 26,100 which is 10.6% higher than last December's similar statistic. The civilian labor force shows a 10% increase since last December and is now at 27,500. The nature of the area's economy lent itself to increases in employment over November's figures at a time when most areas were suffering seasonal declines in such figures.

The number of unemployed persons stayed constant at 1,400 in both December and November, which also coincided with the number of unemployed for December of 1977. The unemployment rate, even shows a slight decrease as the December calculation of 5.0% is below November's 5.2% and well below last December's rate of 5.7%.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The economic news of the area continues to be highlighted by the debate over planned shopping center projects. A court decision has been recently rendered in favor of one developer who fought the city's moratorium on such projects, while another large project says that construction will commence in the spring. Currently, construction has been helped by a slight moderation in the weather as building progresses on motels, a large grocery chain and several office projects.

Reports have again mentioned that a banking financial institution may relocate its facility from its current downtown location, but no firm plans have been formally announced. A national baking concern has tentatively announced plans for a warehouse in Helena to replace its current facilities in Butte and Great Falls.

The retail and service sectors noted a very good holiday season, but some layoffs have occurred after New Years. A new fast food restaurant has opened with a staff of 45-50 employees. The service sector should also reap some benefits from the current legislative session as money is spent on food and lodging. The session also provides jobs for about 100 clerical workers for its duration.

Unemployment claims jumped as the result of a temporary closure of a lumber mill and, of course, weather related layoffs in the construction industry. The feeding operations continue to be the only agricultural activity, and some lamb and calf losses have been reported due to the extreme cold.

KALISPELL LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The December jobless rate totaled 7.5%. Last year's rate of 9.4% indicates the yearwide improvement. Both months preceding December had jobless rates of 6.3%. October's and November's unemployment count were also equal at a level 2,300. The December figure stood at 2,800, 100 below last year.

Employment for the LMA increased 400 workers above November to 34,300 persons in December. One year ago there were 28,300 job holders. The 21.2% increase is due to growth and weather induced factors. The civilian labor force for December equaled 37,100 which is 900 persons larger than last month and 600 greater than October. Last year the labor force contained 31,200 individuals, calculated at 18.9% below the current figure. Care should be taken in interpreting the increases from last year as they reflect both growth and the highly seasonal nature of the area's economy.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

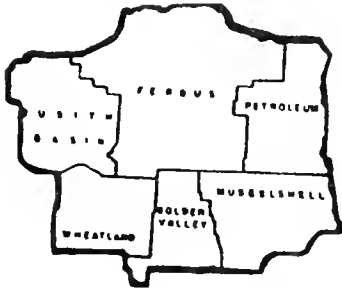
Optimistic tones were set in the manufacturing sector as Polson firms hired 20 additional workers. Plans for the mining and processing facility near Libby still remain favorable. Other Libby projects such as the courthouse remodeling and construction of an insurance building have remained active.

KALISPELL LMA (Cont.)

The snowfall has affected some areas less favorably as logging and agricultural work have had few calls. There is a reported need for clerical, retail, and health personnel.

Holiday business peaked during the month and little hiring is taking place in this sector. The Forest Service laid off some seasonal employees and also a sheet metal plant let five persons go. The Libby Dam project listed 112 workers during the month.

LEWISTOWN LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force for the LMA fell from 9,800 to 9,300 in December. Last year at the same time 9,800 persons were in the labor force. Employment follows a similar trend with the number of workers dropping from 9,400 to 8,800. Last year in December employment totaled 9,200.

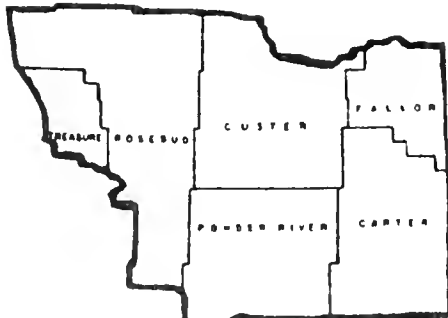
Unemployment of 500 compares to 400 the previous month and 600 last year in December. This year's unemployment rate of 5.3% compares with 6.5% last year and to the November rate of 4.5% this year. The dramatic declines in the civilian labor force and employment account for much of the unemployment rate increase.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Some layoffs were reported in the trade sector as the Christmas shopping season has ended. Weather conditions have slowed consumer activities. Weather was the dominate factor, causing construction slowdowns, dramatic reduction in sawmill operations, and increasing livestock feeding operations. A plumbing shop and an upholstery shop have opened in Denton.

Until the weather gets better, sawmill operations will be sporadic in the area because of inaccessible fallen timber. Generally, all economic activity will be stagnant until better weather prevails.

MILES CITY LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The unemployment rate for the LMA rose to 5.0% during December, up from November's 4.3%, but still below last December's 5.3% rate. The number of jobless persons is calculated to be 700, an increase of 100 since last month.

MILES CITY LMA (Cont.)

Seasonal contraction of the civilian labor force and its employed portion continued as winter weather hit the area. Employment is at 12,900 as compared to November's level of 13,600 and a decrease of 2.3% from the figure for December of 1977. The civilian labor force is at 13,600, a similar 2.2% drop from last year. The statistics indicate the stable nature of the Miles City LMA economy and that seasonality has a major impact on the totals.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The extremely cold and snowy weather caused stoppages in most outside activity. Construction projects showed the greatest impact, as shown by the number of construction workers filing for unemployment insurance. Some projects which are already enclosed such as the mini-mall, a supper club and disco, and a lumber firm's building are continuing.

Agricultural activities have been limited by the inclement weather with some feeding operations about the only movement. Recent sales at the local livestock market have shown higher prices, a good sign for area livestock producers.

Some new business openings have occurred in spite of the weather and announcements have been made on future projects. A fast food chain has opened with about 50 employees. Reports state that a \$1 million railroad car maintenance and repair facility will be built in Miles City in the latter part of 1979.

MISSOULA LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force continued its seasonal contraction in December by dropping from November's 52,500 to 51,700. October's labor force measured at 52,600 persons. One year ago the December count was 45,200, 14.4% below this month's figure. Employment showed a decline over the previous months, but a gain from last year. December's job holders numbered 48,400 as compared with 49,700 in November and 41,700 one year ago.

The unemployment rate is at 6.3%, a net change of 1% from October's and November's 5.3%. The jobless rate for December 1977 measured at 7.7%. Unemployment for both preceding months was 2,800 persons. The December job-seekers totaled 3,300 individuals. Last year there were 3,500 people out of work.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The Missoula LMA has a large percentage of seasonally dependent industries and these are undergoing normal contractions. The wood processing industry has been laying off seasonal employees as cold and snowy conditions persist. Government weather related layoffs of Forest Service personnel continued.

MISSOULA LMA (Cont.)

Missoula reported construction has been halted by snow and abnormally cold weather. December residential building permits were measured at one above last December, but were valued at \$89,597 less. Commercial permits for December showed a valuation decrease of \$3,995,700 as only three were issued. The year-to-date total for all building was estimated at \$66,002,273 with remodeling showing the largest increase.

Employment in other industries remained good as a local aviation firm had few calls. Need also existed for welders, and a plastics manufacturer is seeking some machinists to construct some new molds. The same plant has issued plans for an addition of two new buildings when weather factors will permit.

SHELBY-CUT BANK LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The jobless rate for the area took an upward leap during December to 6.3% up from November's 5.6% rate and October's 4.5%, as seasonal impacts slowed the LMA economy. Approximately 1,000 persons are unemployed in the area, a slight increase from the 900 noted in December of 1977.

The normal wintertime slowdown in the economy also produced reductions in the calculations for the civilian labor force and employment. The civilian labor force is 15,800 for December, down 600 from November's total. Employment stands at 14,800 as compared to November's 15,500 and a slight decrease from last December's 15,000.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Construction has, of course, been drastically slowed by the weather, but inside work continues wherever it is possible. The Senior Citizens center in Cut Bank is completed and open, while building of the civic center is about 50% complete. Enclosed work is also progressing on the new shopping center for Cut Bank. An announcement was made of plans for a 36 unit motel for Shelby, which will be underway later this year.

The weather has had some effects on oilfield activity as drilling has been slowed and even completely closed down at times. There is a demand for some oilfield workers when the rigs are in operation.

Agricultural activity has been limited to feeding operations for livestock due to the severe weather conditions. Some shortages of feed may arise if the hard winter persists.

The local Job Service offices have noted some demand for office workers and the chronic shortage of nurses has yet to be alleviated.

MANPOWER PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

DECEMBER 1978

<u>Program</u>	<u>New Enrollees</u>	<u>Job Placements</u>	<u>End of Month Enrollment</u>
WIN	214	68	2387
CETA-CEP	51	20	230
CETA-INST.	53	18	251
CETA-OJT	17	13	61
JOB CORPS	26	47	397
PSE TITLE II	9	16	173
PSE TITLE VI	36	25	541
PSE TITLE VI-A	30	18	344
CETA - AWE	28	12	90
STIP	0	1	20
HIRE II	17	24	92

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - U. S.^{1/} (1967 = 100)

<u>Group</u>	<u>DECEMBER 1978</u>	<i>Percent Change From:</i> <u>NOVEMBER 1978</u>	<i>DECEMBER 1977</i>
All Items	202.9	.4	9.0

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE UNEMPLOYED^{2/}

DECEMBER 1978

<u>Social Characteristics</u>	<i>Percent of Total Covered Unemployment</i>
Non-White	8.8%
Female	34.9%
Youth	9.6%
Over 45	21.7%

^{1/} The Consumer Price Index measures changes in prices of goods and services bought by urban wage earners and clerical workers, including families and single persons.

^{2/} Based on 20% sample of Continued Claims filed during the week including the 19th of each month in all local offices.

Table I
MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Manage- ment Dispute ^{2/-}
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent ^{1/-}		
						Montana	U. S.	
1977								
January	316.7	291.7	269.1	22.6	25.0	7.9	8.3	.1
February	320.3	294.9	270.1	24.8	25.4	7.9	8.5	.1
March	328.4	303.0	273.1	29.9	25.4	7.7	7.9	.1
April	336.5	313.9	276.9	37.0	22.6	6.7	6.9	.1
May	340.4	319.8	281.6	38.2	20.6	6.1	6.4	.1
June	356.1	333.6	290.1	43.5	22.5	6.3	7.5	.2
July	364.4	342.4	295.9	46.5	22.0	6.0	7.0	3.3
August	371.4	350.2	300.4	49.8	21.2	5.7	6.8	.2
September	355.7	336.3	297.5	38.8	19.4	5.5	6.6	.1
October	346.0	327.2	294.2	33.0	18.8	5.4	6.3	.5
November	342.1	321.7	293.3	28.4	20.4	6.0	6.4	.1
December	337.9	317.1	292.7	24.4	20.8	6.1	6.0	.2
Avg.	343.0	321.0	286.3	34.7	22.0	6.4	7.0	.4
1978								
January	332.1	305.2	282.7	22.5	26.9	8.1	7.0	.2
February	341.3	311.3	286.8	24.5	30.0	8.8	6.9	.2
March	350.6	321.6	292.2	29.4	29.0	8.3	6.6	*
April	358.1	334.9	299.9	35.0	23.2	6.5	5.8	*
May	361.7	341.1	305.1	36.0	20.6	5.7	5.5	*
June	379.3	354.3	313.2	41.1	25.0	6.6	6.2	.4
July	381.2	258.8	314.8	44.0	22.4	5.9	6.3	.2
August	377.4	357.7	310.7	47.0	19.7	5.2	5.8	.1
September	375.9	358.7	321.9	36.8	17.2	4.6	6.0	.1
October	363.5	347.5	316.2	31.3	16.0	4.4	5.4	.1
November	361.5	343.5	316.6	26.9	18.0	5.0	5.5	.1
December	355.0	335.1	312.0	23.1	19.9	5.6	5.6	*
Avg.	361.4	339.1	306.1	33.0	22.3	6.2		.
1979								
January	347.2	319.0	297.7	21.3	28.2	8.1		*
February								
March								
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

^{1/-} Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Series began January 1970.

^{2/-} Non-additive - included in total employment.

Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.

* Under 50.

Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.

RESIDENCE DATA

Table II
GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)
Civilian Labor Force
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

CURRENT POPULATION
SURVEY DATA

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Manage- ment Dispute ^{2/}
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent ^{1/}		
						County	State	
<u>1977</u>								
January	31.8	29.7	28.8	.9	2.1	6.6	7.9	*
February	32.9	30.9	29.9	1.0	2.0	6.1	7.9	*
March	33.5	31.3	30.1	1.2	2.2	6.5	7.7	*
April	34.5	32.6	31.1	1.5	1.9	5.4	6.7	*
May	34.7	32.8	31.3	1.5	1.9	5.5	6.1	*
June	36.0	33.9	32.2	1.7	2.1	5.9	6.3	*
July	35.8	33.8	32.0	1.8	2.0	5.6	6.0	.8
August	36.4	34.2	32.2	2.0	2.2	6.1	5.7	*
September	35.6	33.4	31.9	1.5	2.2	6.2	5.5	*
October	36.0	33.8	32.5	1.3	2.2	6.1	5.4	.1
November	35.4	33.4	32.3	1.1	2.0	5.7	6.0	*
December	35.0	32.8	31.8	1.0	2.2	6.2	6.1	*
1977 Avg.	34.8	32.7	31.3	1.4	2.1	6.0	6.4	.1
<u>1978</u>								
January	35.3	32.6	31.7	.9	2.7	7.8	8.1	*
February	36.2	32.8	31.8	1.0	3.4	9.3	8.8	*
March	35.3	32.4	31.2	1.2	2.9	8.0	8.3	*
April	35.0	32.9	31.5	1.4	2.1	6.1	6.5	*
May	35.1	33.0	31.6	1.4	2.1	6.0	5.7	*
June	36.4	33.5	31.9	1.6	2.9	7.9	6.6	*
July	35.1	32.7	31.0	1.7	2.4	6.9	5.9	*
August	34.2	32.0	30.1	1.9	2.2	6.5	5.2	*
September	35.9	33.8	32.3	1.5	2.1	6.0	4.6	*
October	35.1	33.2	32.0	1.2	1.9	5.5	4.4	*
November	35.2	33.0	31.9	1.1	2.2	6.3	5.0	*
December	35.1	32.7	31.8	.9	2.4	6.9	5.6	*
1977 Avg.	35.3	32.8	31.5	1.3	2.5	7.1	6.2	*
<u>1979</u>								
January	34.5	31.5	30.7	.8	3.0	8.7	8.1	*
February								
March								
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
1979 Avg.								

^{1/} Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Series began January 1970.

^{2/} Non-additive - included in total employment.

Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.

* Under 50.

Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.

Table III
BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)
Civilian Labor Force
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Manage- ment Dispute ^{2/-}
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent ^{1/-}		
						County	State	
1977								
January	48.9	46.3	45.3	1.0	2.6	5.4	7.9	*
February	50.6	47.8	46.7	1.1	2.8	5.5	7.9	*
March	51.2	48.5	47.1	1.4	2.7	5.2	7.7	*
April	52.1	49.8	48.1	1.7	2.3	4.4	6.7	*
May	52.0	49.7	47.9	1.8	2.3	4.5	6.1	*
June	52.7	50.4	48.4	2.0	2.3	4.4	6.3	*
July	53.1	50.9	48.8	2.1	2.2	4.1	6.0	*
August	54.3	51.9	49.6	2.3	2.4	4.4	5.7	*
September	53.9	51.5	49.7	1.8	2.4	4.4	5.5	*
October	53.6	51.3	49.8	1.5	2.3	4.3	5.4	*
November	53.8	51.5	50.2	1.3	2.3	4.2	6.0	*
December	52.9	50.6	49.5	1.1	2.3	4.3	6.1	*
Avg.	52.4	50.0	48.4	1.6	2.4	4.6	6.4	*
1978								
January	51.9	48.8	47.8	1.0	3.1	6.0	8.1	.1
February	53.8	50.2	49.1	1.1	3.6	6.7	8.8	.1
March	52.6	49.1	47.8	1.3	3.5	6.7	8.3	*
April	52.7	50.3	48.7	1.6	2.4	4.6	6.5	*
May	52.6	50.3	48.6	1.7	2.3	4.3	5.7	*
June	52.6	49.8	47.9	1.9	2.8	5.2	6.6	*
July	52.2	49.8	47.8	2.0	2.4	4.5	5.9	*
August	51.0	48.8	46.6	2.2	2.2	4.2	5.2	*
September	54.3	52.3	50.6	1.7	2.0	3.6	4.6	*
October	53.3	51.7	50.3	1.4	1.6	3.0	4.4	*
November	53.8	51.6	50.4	1.2	2.2	4.1	5.0	*
December	53.9	51.6	50.5	1.1	2.3	4.3	5.6	*
Avg.	52.9	50.4	48.9	1.5	2.5	4.8	6.2	*
1979								
January	52.6	49.4	48.4	1.0	3.2	6.0	8.1	*
February								
March								
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Series began January 1970.

2/ Non-additive - included in total employment.

Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.

* Under 50.

Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.

Table IV
MONTANA
Statewide Employment by Industry

December 1978
in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Net Changes to Current Month from:				
	Dec. 1978	Nov. 1978	Dec. 1977	Nov. 1978	Dec. 1977
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS ^{1/}	355.0	361.5	337.9	-6.5	17.1
EMPLOYED PERSONS	335.1	343.5	317.1	-8.4	18.0
Persons Employed in Agriculture	23.1	26.9	24.4	-3.8	-1.3
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	19.9	18.0	20.8	1.9	-1.9
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted ^{2/}	5.6	5.0	6.1	.6	-1.6
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted ^{2/}	5.4	5.1	6.2	.3	-1.6
<hr/>					
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	278.3	288.0	271.2	-3.8	7.0
MANUFACTURING	24.1	27.1	25.8	-3.0	-1.7
Durable Goods	15.0	17.7	16.7	-2.7	-1.7
24 Lumber and Wood Products	9.1	10.9	10.1	-2.9	-2.0
33 Primary Metal Industries	3.2	3.7	3.3	-.1	-.1
Other Durable Goods	2.7	3.1	3.3	.2	.4
Nondurable Goods	9.1	9.4	9.1	-.1	0
20 Food and Kindred Products	4.0	4.7	4.7	-.7	-.8
27 Printing and Publishing	2.3	2.7	2.7	0	0
29 Petroleum and Coal Products	1.1	1.1	1.1	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	1.7	1.6	1.3	.1	.8
MINING	7.5	7.6	6.5	-.1	1.0
10 Metal Mining	2.7	2.7	2.1	0	.6
12 & 14 Bitum. Coal, Quarrying, Non-Metal Mining	2.2	2.7	1.9	-.1	.4
13 Oil and Gas Extraction	2.6	2.2	2.5	0	.4
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	15.9	16.9	15.5	-1.1	.6
15 General Building Contractors	1.3	5.7	1.1	-.4	.5
16 Heavy Construction Contractors	4.1	4.8	4.1	-.4	0
17 Special Trade Contractors	6.4	6.3	6.0	-.3	.4
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	22.0	22.2	20.2	0	1.8
40 Railroad Transportation	2.4	2.4	2.4	0	1.0
41-42 Transportation, except Railroad	2.0	2.0	6.4	0	.8
43 & 44 Comm., Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services	8.0	8.2	2.9	0	.4
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	24.2	22.4	29.9	.9	3.4
Wholesale Trade	16.2	16.5	16.0	0	.2
Retail Trade	57.0	56.9	57.9	.9	3.2
52 & 53 General Merchandise, Apparel, Accessories	2.5	2.9	2.1	.7	.4
54 Food Stores	2.4	2.6	2.3	-.1	.1
55 Automotive Dealers, Service Stations	8.6	8.6	8.4	0	.1
56 Eating and Drinking Places	20.7	20.1	19.7	.2	2.1
57, 58 Bldg. Mat., Equip., Furn., Misc.	11.2	10.9	10.8	.4	.4
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	12.4	12.0	11.5	-.2	.9
SERVICES	52.7	51.9	49.9	.9	2.8
70 Hotels and other Lodging Places	6.5	6.2	5.8	.7	.2
72 Personal Services	2.7	2.6	2.5	.1	.6
80 Medical and other Health Services	17.1	17.0	16.2	.1	.9
Other Services	26.4	26.1	25.4	.7	1.0
GOVERNMENT	69.9	70.9	71.9	-1.0	-1.9
91 Federal Government	12.3	12.6	12.1	-.7	-.8
92 State Colleges and Universities	8.1	8.1	8.2	0	-.4
93 Other State Government	10.7	10.7	11.3	0	-.6
94 Local Education	14.3	14.3	14.1	-.1	-.2
95 Other Local Government	14.1	14.7	13.5	-.8	.6

1/ Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationship; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers. Current month preliminary. Revised to 1978. For remarks.

2/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers. Establishment Series began January 1964; Residence Series began January 1970.

Table V
GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

December 1978

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Net Changes to Current Month from:				
	Dec. 1978	Nov. 1978	Dec. 1977	Nov. 1978	Dec. 1977
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS ^{1/}	35.1	35.2	35.0	-.1	.1
EMPLOYED PERSONS	32.7	33.0	32.8	-.3	-.1
Persons Employed in Agriculture9	1.1	1.0	-.2	-.1
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	2.4	2.2	2.2	.2	.2
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted ^{2/}	6.9	6.3	6.2	.6	.7
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted ^{2/} ..	6.9	6.5	6.2	.4	.7
<hr/>					
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	30.5	30.6	29.8	-.1	.7
Manufacturing	1.9	1.9	1.8	0	.1
Contract Construction	1.7	1.9	1.8	-.2	-.1
Transportation and Public Utilities ...	1.9	1.9	1.8	0	.1
Trade	10.3	10.2	10.1	.1	.2
Wholesale Trade	2.7	2.7	2.7	0	0
Retail Trade	7.6	7.5	7.4	.1	.2
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	2.0	2.0	1.9	0	.1
Services and Mining	6.5	6.6	6.2	-.1	.3
Government	6.2	6.1	6.2	.1	0
Federal Government	2.0	2.0	1.9	0	.1
State and Local Government	4.2	4.1	4.3	.1	-.1

^{1/} Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships;
includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.

^{2/} Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.
Current month preliminary.

Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.

Table VI
BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

December 1978

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Net Changes to Current Month From:				
	Dec. 1978	Nov. 1978	Dec. 1977	Nov. 1978	Dec. 1977
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS ^{1/}	53.9	53.8	52.9	.1	1.0
EMPLOYED PERSONS	51.6	51.6	50.6	0	1.0
Persons Employed in Agriculture	1.1	1.2	1.1	-.1	0
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	2.3	2.2	2.3	.1	0
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted ^{2/}	4.3	4.1	4.3	.2	0
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted ^{2/} ..	4.2	4.4	4.3	-.2	-.1
<hr/>					
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	45.9	46.0	45.0	-.1	.9
Manufacturing	4.2	4.1	4.2	.1	0
Contract Construction	2.2	2.3	2.4	-.1	-.2
Transportation and Public Utilities ...	4.3	4.4	4.0	-.1	.7
Trade	16.0	15.9	15.2	.1	.8
Wholesale Trade	5.3	5.3	5.0	0	.3
Retail Trade	10.7	10.6	10.2	.1	.5
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	2.1	2.1	2.0	0	.1
Services and Mining	9.3	9.4	8.9	-.1	.4
Government	7.8	7.8	8.3	0	-.5
Federal Government	1.5	1.5	1.4	0	.1
State and Local Government	6.3	6.3	6.9	0	-.6

^{1/} Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships;
includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.

^{2/} Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Current month preliminary.

Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.

Table VII

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS^{1/}

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	Oct. 1978	Nov. 1978	Dec. 1978	Oct. 1978	Nov. 1978	Dec. 1978	Oct. 1978	Nov. 1978	Dec. 1978	Oct. 1978	Nov. 1978	Dec. 1978
STATEWIDE	363.5	361.5	355.0	347.5	343.5	335.1	16.0	18.0	19.9	4.4	5.0	5.6
GREAT FALLS SMSA	35.1	35.2	35.1	33.2	33.0	32.7	1.9	2.2	2.4	5.5	6.3	6.9
BILLINGS SMSA	53.3	53.8	53.9	51.7	51.6	51.6	1.6	2.2	2.3	3.0	4.1	4.3
BALANCE OF STATE ^{2/}	275.1	272.5	266.0	262.6	258.9	250.8	12.5	13.6	15.2	4.6	5.0	5.7
ANACONDA-BUTTE	35.2	34.9	34.4	33.2	37.8	32.2	2.0	2.1	2.2	5.7	5.9	6.2
BOZEMAN	29.1	29.0	26.9	28.1	27.9	25.6	1.0	1.1	1.3	3.3	3.7	4.7
GLASGOW	15.8	15.4	14.5	15.2	14.8	13.9	.6	.6	.6	3.8	3.9	3.9
GLENDALE	14.2	13.8	13.0	13.9	13.5	12.6	.3	.3	.4	2.0	2.6	3.1
HARDIN-RED LODGE	11.7	11.5	11.1	11.3	10.9	10.5	.4	.6	.6	3.6	4.8	5.7
HAVRE	12.0	11.8	11.3	11.6	11.3	10.7	.4	.5	.6	3.5	4.2	5.5
HELENA	26.7	27.0	27.5	25.5	25.6	26.1	1.2	1.4	1.4	4.4	5.2	5.0
KALISPELL	36.5	36.2	37.1	34.2	33.9	34.3	2.3	2.3	2.8	6.3	6.3	7.5
LEWISTOWN	10.0	9.8	9.3	9.6	9.4	8.8	.4	.4	.5	3.7	4.5	5.3
MILES CITY	14.4	14.2	13.6	13.9	13.6	12.9	.5	.6	.7	3.3	4.3	5.0
MISSOULA	52.6	52.5	51.7	49.8	49.7	48.4	2.8	2.8	3.3	5.3	5.3	6.3
SHELBY-CUT BANK	16.8	16.4	15.8	16.1	15.5	14.8	.7	.9	1.0	4.5	5.6	6.3

^{1/} A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page.^{2/} Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

Map inside back cover.

TABLE VIII

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS^{1/}

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	Dec. 1978	Dec. 1977	Percent Change 1977- 1978	Dec. 1978	Dec. 1977	Percent Change 1977- 1978	Dec. 1978	Dec. 1977	Net Change 1977- 1978	Dec. 1978	Dec. 1977	Net Change 1977- 1978
STATEWIDE	355.0	337.9	5.1	335.1	317.1	5.7	19.1	20.8	-9	5.6	6.1	-.5
GREAT FALLS SMSA	35.1	35.0	.3	32.7	32.8	-.3	2.4	2.2	.2	6.9	6.2	.7
BILLINGS SMSA	53.9	52.9	1.9	51.6	50.6	2.0	2.3	2.3	0	4.3	4.3	0
BALANCE OF STATE ^{2/}	266.0	250.0	6.4	250.8	233.7	7.3	15.2	16.3	1.1	5.7	6.5	-.8
ANACONDA-BUTTE	34.4	32.4	6.2	32.2	30.0	7.3	2.2	2.4	-.2	6.2	7.5	-1.3
BOZEMAN	26.9	23.7	13.5	25.6	22.5	13.8	1.3	1.2	.1	5.7	5.0	-.3
GLASGOW	14.5	16.0	-9.4	13.9	15.1	-7.9	.6	.9	-.3	3.9	5.4	-1.5
GLENDIVE	13.0	13.3	-2.3	12.6	12.9	-2.3	.4	.4	0	3.1	3.3	-.2
HARDIN-RED LODGE	11.1	10.9	1.8	10.5	10.3	1.9	.6	.6	0	5.7	6.0	-.3
HAYRE	11.3	12.5	-9.6	10.7	11.9	-10.1	.6	.6	0	5.5	4.9	.6
HELENA	27.5	25.0	10.0	26.1	23.6	10.6	1.4	1.4	0	5.0	5.7	-.7
KALISPELL	37.1	31.2	18.9	34.3	28.3	21.2	2.8	2.9	-.1	7.5	9.4	-1.9
LEWISTOWN	9.3	9.8	-5.1	8.8	9.2	-4.3	.5	.6	-.1	5.5	6.5	-1.0
MILES CITY	13.6	13.9	-2.2	12.9	13.2	-2.6	.7	.7	0	5.0	5.3	-.3
MISSOULA	51.7	45.2	14.4	48.4	41.7	16.1	3.3	3.5	-.2	6.5	7.7	-1.4
SHELBY-CUT BANK	15.8	15.9	-.6	14.8	15.0	-1.3	1.0	.9	.1	6.5	5.9	.4

^{1/} A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. Map inside back cover.^{2/} Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

TABLE IX B

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY
CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

DECEMBER 1976

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	PERCENT RATE
STATEWIDE	354956	325063	19893	5.6
CASCADE	35112	32704	2408	6.9
YELLOWSTONE	53909	51615	2294	4.3
CHIEF OF COMMERCE	3814	3647	167	4.4
BIG HORN	4905	4587	318	6.5
BLAINE	2742	2507	235	8.6
BROADWATER	1444	1391	53	3.7
CARBON	3000	2814	186	6.2
CARTER	755	668	87	11.5
CHUTEAU	2334	2249	85	3.6
CUSTER	5667	5407	260	4.6
DANIELS	1263	1244	19	1.5
DAWSON	5149	4963	186	3.6
DEER LODGE	5840	5431	409	7.0
FALLON	2065	2004	61	3.0
FERGUS	4937	4697	240	4.9
FLATHEAD	22095	20443	1652	7.5
GALLATIN	20095	19263	832	4.1
GARFIELD	722	680	42	5.8
GLACIER	5259	4732	527	10.0
GOLDEN VALLEY	300	285	15	5.0
GRANITE	1513	1398	115	7.6
HILL	7664	7326	338	4.4
JEFFERSON	2071	1950	121	5.8
JUDITH BASIN	1044	924	120	11.5
LAKE	7867	7434	433	5.5
LEWIS AND CLARK	23963	22810	1153	4.8
LIBERTY	912	867	45	4.9
LINCOLN	7109	6427	682	9.6
MC CONE	1025	1005	20	2.0
MADISON	2101	2003	98	4.7
MEACHAM	887	834	53	6.0
MINERAL	1451	1291	160	11.0
MISSOULA	39297	37030	2267	5.8
MUSSELSHELL	1528	1453	75	4.9
PARK	5870	5498	372	6.3
PETROLIUM	253	249	4	1.6
PHILLIPS	2374	2269	105	4.4
PONDERA	3140	2992	148	4.7
POWELL	1056	1026	30	2.8
POWELL	3534	3330	204	5.8
PRAIRIE	724	714	10	1.4
RAVALLI	7349	6803	546	7.4
RICHMOND	4779	4676	103	2.1
ROOSEVELT	4352	4153	199	4.6
ROSELAND	3683	3435	248	6.7
SANDERS	3586	3291	295	8.2
SHERIDAN	2247	2216	31	1.4
SILVER BOW	17579	16428	1151	6.5
STILLWATER	1768	1667	101	5.7
SWEET GRASS	1411	1368	43	3.0
TETON	2386	2266	120	5.0
TODD	2627	2512	115	4.4
TREASURE	344	327	17	4.9
VALLEY	4221	4002	219	5.2
WHEATLAND	1199	1160	39	3.3
WISLAUX	585	572	13	2.2

TABLE IX A

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY
CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

NOVEMBER 1978

PERCENT

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	RATE
STATEWIDE	361467	343417	18010	5.0
CASCADE	35202	32489	2213	6.3
YELLOWSTONE	53839	51655	2184	4.1
BEAVERHEAD	4102	4052	110	2.6
BIG HORN	5114	4846	266	5.2
BLAINE	2707	2544	163	6.0
BROADWATER	1433	1391	42	2.9
CARBON	3110	2979	161	5.8
CARTER	890	823	57	6.4
CHUTEAU	2631	2515	116	4.4
CUSTER	5759	5502	197	3.4
DANIELS	1022	1001	21	2.0
DAWSON	5304	5137	167	3.1
DEER LODGE	6060	5724	336	5.5
FALLON	2090	2015	81	3.9
FERGUS	5051	4826	225	4.5
FLATHEAD	21055	19799	1256	6.0
GALLATIN	21878	21112	766	3.5
GARFIELD	708	737	31	4.0
GLACIER	5283	4796	487	9.2
GOLDEN VALLEY	399	385	14	3.5
GRANITE	1464	1307	97	6.9
HILL	8127	7825	304	3.7
JEFFERSON	2179	2038	141	6.5
JUDITH BASIN	1110	1025	85	7.7
LAKE	8012	7556	454	5.7
LEWIS AND CLARK	25426	22191	1235	5.0
LIBERTY	982	948	34	3.5
LINCOLN	7120	6544	576	8.1
MC CONE	1175	1152	23	2.0
MADISON	2397	2251	146	6.1
MEAGHER	953	919	34	3.6
MINERAL	1540	1436	104	6.8
MISSOULA	39793	37911	1882	4.7
MUSSELSHELL	1631	1562	69	4.2
PARK	6126	5843	283	4.6
PETROLEUM	277	271	6	2.2
PHILLIPS	2494	2398	96	3.8
PONDERA	3288	3149	139	4.2
POWDER RIVER	977	938	39	4.0
POWELL	3576	3392	184	5.1
PRAIRIE	657	628	29	3.4
RAVALLI	7469	6894	575	7.7
RICHLAND	5124	5019	105	2.0
ROOSEVELT	4749	4526	223	4.7
ROSEBUD	4032	3810	222	5.5
SANDERS	3662	3445	217	5.9
SHERIDAN	2338	2300	38	1.6
SILVER HAWK	17252	16060	1192	6.9
STILLWATER	1791	1710	81	4.5
SWEET GRASS	1466	1442	24	1.6
TETON	2500	2393	107	4.3
TOOLE	2714	2639	75	2.8
TREASURE	425	412	10	2.4
VALLEY	4525	4302	221	4.9
WHEATLAND	1312	1274	38	2.9
WIBAUX	603	596	7	1.2

ESTABLISHMENT DATA

TABLE X

MONTANA

FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

December 1978

(In Thousands)

INDUSTRY	FEMALE EMPLOYMENT				TOTAL EMPLOYMENT COMPARISON			
	Dec. 1978 ^{1/}	Nov. 1978	Dec. 1977	Net Change to Current Month From:	December 1978		November 1978	
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers	127.7	127.6	114.8	.1	278.2	45.9	282.0	45.2
Manufacturing	3.1	3.1	2.8	0	24.1	12.9	27.1	11.4
Mining4	.4	.3	0	7.5	5.3	7.6	5.3
Contract Construction	1.3	1.3	1.1	0	15.8	8.2	16.9	7.7
Transportation & Public Utilities	4.2	4.2	3.8	0	22.6	18.6	22.6	18.6
Wholesale & Retail Trade	38.5	38.5	31.0	0	73.2	52.6	72.4	53.2
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate ..	7.8	7.9	7.6	-.1	12.4	62.9	12.6	62.7
Services	35.2	35.0	33.2	.2	52.7	66.8	51.9	67.4
Government ^{2/}	37.2	37.2	35.0	0	69.9	53.2	70.9	52.5

^{1/} Current month preliminary.

Revised to 1978 Benchmark.

^{2/} Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged.

Prepared by the Montana Employment Security Division in Cooperation with the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Establishment Series began January 1974.

TABLE XI

MONTANA FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

(In Thousands)

1977

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann. Avg.
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary	103.2	103.8	105.8	107.7	107.3	111.4	108.9	112.5	115.6	112.4	113.2	114.6	109.7
Manufacturing	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.1	3.0	3.1
Mining	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3
Contract Construction	.8	.8	.7	.8	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.0	.8	1.1	1.0
Transport. & Public Utilities	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.7
Wholesale & Retail Trade	26.8	26.7	28.0	29.3	29.7	31.4	30.3	30.6	31.2	31.0	31.5	31.9	29.8
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.8	7.1	7.2	7.1	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.2	7.3	7.1
Services	30.5	30.7	31.1	32.2	32.0	33.1	32.3	32.9	33.7	31.2	32.3	32.9	32.1
Government ^{1/}	31.3	31.8	32.3	31.9	30.6	31.4	30.8	32.9	34.7	34.4	34.2	34.3	32.6

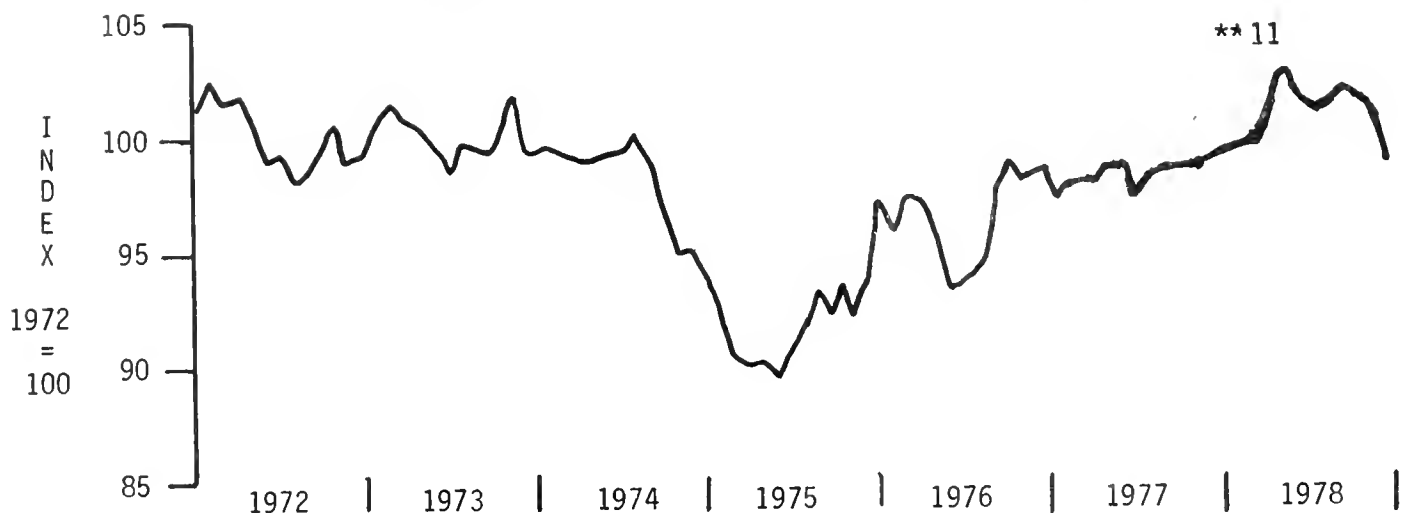
1978

Nonagricultural Wage & Salary	114.7	115.0	116.9	119.5	120.2	123.8	121.3	122.1	120.5	122.2	122.3	127.7	120.6
Manufacturing	2.9	2.6	2.8	2.9	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.3	3.1	3.1	3.0
Mining	.3	.3	.3	.3	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4
Contract Construction	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3
Transport. & Public Utilities	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	30.7	30.5	31.2	32.2	33.2	33.7	32.9	35.3	35.5	35.3	35.2	38.5	33.7
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	7.4	7.7	7.9	8.0	8.0	8.2	8.3	8.4	7.9	7.9	8.0	7.8	8.0
Services	33.8	34.0	33.4	35.2	35.4	37.6	36.6	34.0	34.3	34.1	34.3	35.2	34.8
Government ^{1/}	34.9	35.3	35.5	35.7	35.8	35.6	34.6	35.4	33.7	35.6	35.8	37.2	35.4

^{1/} Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged.
 Revised to 1977 Benchmark.
 Prepared by Montana Employment Security Division in cooperation with U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

COMPOSITE INDEX OF SIX ECONOMIC INDICATORS*



Composite Index of
SIX ECONOMIC INDICATORS
1972 = 100

MONTANA'S COMPOSITE INDEX

1977

January	98.2
February	99.2
March	99.0
April	99.1
May	97.1
June	97.5
July	95.8
August	97.1
September	98.1
October	98.1
November	98.0
December	98.5

1978

January	100.1
February	100.2
March	103.1
April	103.8
May	102.4
June	101.7
July	101.3
August	101.8
September	102.6
October	101.1
November	98.8
December	

The composite index of leading indicators read 98.8 for November, a drop from the revised October level of 101.1. This change of direction might be indicative of a change in the economy, but the trend must persist for a few more months before such movement is predictive of any decline in the economy. A drop in building permits and a large increase in initial claims had the most influence among the component indicators in causing the composite to move downward. The index should be watched closely in the next few months to determine if this decline is due to the early winter or indicative of a change in the economy.

* Employment, Average Weekly Hours, Total Accessions, and Layoffs in Manufacturing; Building Permits, and Average Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims.

** Indicates last month of plotted data.

REAL SPENDABLE AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS
OF PRIVATE NONAGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION WORKERS
(1967) DOLLARS

Average Weekly Earnings

Real Spendable Earnings

1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978

220
200
180
160
140
100
90
80
DOLLARS

	Nov. 1978	Oct. 1978	Nov. 1977
Gross Average Weekly Earnings	200.99	218.40	190.85
Taxes Withheld	30.58	35.46	27.25
Spendable Earnings	170.41	182.94	163.60
Adjustment for Price Changes Since 1967	85.96	91.79	75.37
Real Spendable Earnings in 1967 Dollars	84.45	91.15	88.23

Average
Weekly
Earnings

Real
Spendable
Earnings

1977

July	190.97	89.63
Aug.	200.28	92.96
Sep.	197.89	91.67
Oct.	202.65	93.29
Nov.	190.85	88.23
Dec.	210.37	95.44

1978

Jan.	205.19	92.67
Feb.	209.10	93.63
Mar.	203.28	90.71
Apr.	207.77	91.58
May	208.58	91.04
June	216.58	93.03
July	217.49	92.67
Aug.	214.68	91.19
Sep.	215.27	90.81
Oct.	218.40	91.15
Nov.	200.99	84.45
Dec.		

REAL SPENDABLE EARNINGS

Gross wages declined sharply in November as weather related layoffs occurred in some sectors of the Montana economy. The decrease of \$17.41 in the gross figure contributed to the monthly decline of \$6.70 in the Real Spendable calculation, but the November Real Spendable figure of \$84.45 was also adversely affected by the continued rise in the CPI. The Consumer Price Index for November was 201.8 up from October 200.7.

The relationship between this November's figure and the calculation for last November indicates the effect and causes of the decrease in Real Spendable income. Gross wages have actually increased by \$10.14 but the Real Spendable figure has dropped by \$3.78 during the past with most of the decline being a result of adjustments for price changes.

* Indicates last month of plotted data.

p: Preliminary

1/ Average weekly earnings of total private nonagricultural production workers.

2/ Real spendable average weekly earnings of private nonagricultural production workers.

MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Manage- ment Dispute ^{2/}
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent ^{1/}		
						Montana	U. S.	
1977								
January	337.1	315.9	282.2	33.7	21.2	6.3	7.4	.1
February	339.9	317.9	283.0	34.9	22.0	6.5	7.6	.1
March	340.0	317.5	282.4	35.1	22.5	6.6	7.4	.1
April	340.6	318.3	281.9	36.4	22.3	6.6	7.1	.1
May	340.5	317.4	282.3	35.1	23.1	6.8	7.1	.1
June	337.2	316.4	281.0	35.4	20.8	6.2	7.1	.2
July	344.4	321.7	285.5	36.2	22.7	6.6	6.9	3.3
August	347.9	324.8	289.4	35.4	23.1	6.6	7.0	.2
September	346.6	323.8	289.5	34.3	22.8	6.6	6.8	.1
October	347.2	325.3	291.6	33.7	21.9	6.3	6.8	.5
November	347.6	326.4	293.2	33.2	21.2	6.1	6.7	.1
December	346.5	326.0	292.5	33.5	20.5	5.9	6.4	.2
Avg.	343.0	321.0	286.3	34.7	22.0	6.4	7.0	.4
1978								
January	352.6	329.4	295.8	33.6	23.2	6.6	6.3	.2
February	361.3	334.6	299.9	34.7	26.7	7.4	6.1	.2
March	362.4	336.2	301.6	34.6	26.2	7.2	6.2	*
April	362.3	339.4	305.1	34.3	22.9	6.3	6.0	*
May	361.9	338.9	305.9	33.0	23.0	6.4	6.1	*
June	360.3	337.1	304.0	33.1	23.2	6.4	5.7	.4
July	361.3	338.2	304.6	33.6	23.1	6.4	6.2	.2
August	353.9	332.3	299.7	32.6	21.6	6.1	5.9	.1
September	366.9	346.3	314.1	32.2	20.6	5.6	6.0	.1
October	364.6	345.5	313.6	31.9	19.1	5.2	5.8	.1
November	367.1	348.2	316.5	31.7	18.9	5.1	5.8	.1
December	363.6	344.0	311.8	32.2	19.6	5.4	5.9	*
Avg.	361.4	339.1	306.1	33.0	22.3	6.2		.1
1979								
January								
February								
March								
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

^{1/} Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.^{2/} Non-additive - included in total employment.

* Under 50.

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.

Current month preliminary

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

RESIDENCE DATA

Table XIII
GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)CURRENT POPULATION
SURVEY DATACivilian Labor Force
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Manage- ment Dispute ^{2/}
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent ^{1/}		
						County	State	
1977								
January	33.0	31.1	29.7	1.4	1.9	5.8	6.3	*
February	34.4	32.5	31.1	1.4	1.9	5.5	6.5	*
March	34.0	32.0	30.6	1.4	2.0	5.9	6.6	*
April	34.4	32.5	31.0	1.5	1.9	5.7	6.6	*
May	34.5	32.4	31.0	1.4	2.1	6.1	6.8	*
June	34.6	32.8	31.4	1.4	1.8	5.1	6.2	*
July	34.9	32.9	31.5	1.4	2.0	5.6	6.6	.8
August	35.4	33.1	31.7	1.4	2.3	6.5	6.6	*
September	35.4	32.9	31.5	1.4	2.5	7.0	6.6	*
October	35.9	33.6	32.3	1.3	2.3	6.5	6.3	.4
November	35.5	33.4	32.1	1.3	2.1	5.9	6.1	*
December	35.6	33.4	32.1	1.3	2.2	6.2	5.9	*
Avg.	34.8	32.7	31.3	1.4	2.1	6.0	6.4	.1
1978								
January	36.5	33.9	32.5	1.4	2.6	7.0	6.6	*
February	37.7	34.5	33.1	1.4	3.3	8.7	7.4	*
March	35.7	33.1	31.7	1.4	2.6	7.4	7.2	*
April	35.0	32.8	31.4	1.4	2.2	6.3	6.3	*
May	35.0	32.7	31.4	1.3	2.3	6.6	6.4	*
June	34.9	32.4	31.1	1.3	2.5	7.3	6.4	*
July	34.1	31.7	30.4	1.3	2.4	6.9	6.4	*
August	33.1	30.8	29.5	1.3	2.3	6.9	6.1	*
September	35.7	33.3	32.0	1.3	2.4	6.7	5.6	*
October	35.0	32.9	31.7	1.2	2.1	5.9	5.2	*
November	35.3	33.0	31.8	1.2	2.3	6.5	5.1	*
December	35.8	33.3	32.1	1.2	2.5	6.9	5.4	*
Avg.	35.3	32.8	31.5	1.3	2.5	7.1	6.2	*
1979								
January								
February								
March								
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

^{1/} Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Series began January 1970.

^{2/} Non-additive - included in total employment.

Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.

* Under 50.

Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

Table XIV
BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)
Civilian Labor Force
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Manage- ment Dispute ^{2/}
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent ^{1/}		
						County	State	
1977								
January	50.3	48.0	46.5	1.5	2.3	4.5	6.3	*
February	52.4	49.9	48.3	1.6	2.5	4.7	6.5	*
March	52.3	50.0	48.4	1.6	2.3	4.5	6.6	*
April	52.2	49.8	48.1	1.7	2.4	4.5	6.6	*
May	52.2	49.4	47.8	1.6	2.8	5.4	6.8	*
June	51.1	49.2	47.6	1.6	1.9	3.8	6.2	*
July	51.7	49.6	48.0	1.6	2.1	4.0	6.6	.1
August	53.2	50.7	49.0	1.7	2.5	4.8	6.6	.1
September	53.6	51.0	49.4	1.6	2.6	4.9	6.6	.1
October	53.3	50.7	49.2	1.5	2.6	4.9	6.3	.1
November	53.7	51.2	49.7	1.5	2.5	4.6	6.1	.1
December	53.0	50.7	49.2	1.5	2.3	4.3	5.9	.1
Avg.	52.4	50.0	48.4	1.6	2.4	4.6	6.4	*
1978								
January	53.2	50.5	49.0	1.5	2.7	5.1	6.6	.1
February	55.6	52.3	50.7	1.6	3.3	5.9	7.4	.1
March	53.8	50.6	49.0	1.6	3.2	5.9	7.2	*
April	52.8	50.3	48.7	1.6	2.5	4.7	6.3	*
May	52.7	50.0	48.5	1.5	2.7	5.1	6.4	*
June	51.0	48.6	47.1	1.5	2.4	4.7	6.4	*
July	50.8	48.5	47.0	1.5	2.3	4.5	6.4	*
August	49.9	47.6	46.1	1.5	2.3	4.6	6.1	*
September	54.0	51.8	50.3	1.5	2.2	4.1	5.6	*
October	53.0	51.1	49.6	1.5	1.9	3.6	5.2	*
November	53.8	51.4	50.0	1.4	2.4	4.4	5.1	*
December	54.0	51.7	50.2	1.5	2.3	4.2	5.4	*
Avg.	52.9	50.4	48.9	1.5	2.5	4.8	6.2	*
1979								
January								
February								
March								
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

^{1/} Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers

Series began January 1970.

^{2/} Non-additive - included in total employment.

Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.

* Under 50.

Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

MONTANA HOURS AND EARNINGS For Private Nonagricultural Industries

December 1978

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Dec. 1978	Nov. 1978	Dec. 1977	Dec. 1978	Nov. 1978	Dec. 1977	Dec. 1978	Nov. 1978	Dec. 1977
TOTAL PRIVATE	\$216.48	\$200.99	\$210.37	35.9	35.7	35.9	6.03	5.63	5.86
MANUFACTURING									
Durable Goods	339.15	344.67	315.24	42.5	43.3	42.6	7.98	7.96	7.40
Primary Metal Industries	339.15	348.21	317.95	42.5	43.8	43.2	7.98	7.95	7.36
Nondurable Goods	348.29	351.01	313.94	38.4	38.7	40.3	9.07	9.07	7.79
Food and Kindred Products	339.52	337.55	309.34	42.6	42.3	41.3	7.97	7.98	7.49
	275.99	276.89	245.95	43.6	43.4	42.7	6.33	6.38	5.76
MINING									
Metal Mining	441.78	431.38	381.87	46.7	45.6	43.1	9.46	9.46	8.86
	477.60	427.58	450.11	43.3	38.8	43.7	11.03	11.02	10.30
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	329.64	326.23	432.20	32.8	32.3	33.4	10.05	10.10	12.94
TRANSPORTATION AND	311.48	309.32	314.81	40.4	40.7	42.6	7.71	7.60	7.39
PUBLIC UTILITIES	303.36	309.52	272.21	41.9	42.4	42.8	7.24	7.30	6.36
Communications, Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services									
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	170.69	162.20	156.13	33.6	32.9	32.8	5.08	4.93	4.76
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	142.68	146.56	143.93	34.8	35.4	37.3	4.10	4.14	3.86
SERVICES	137.76	137.76	134.52	33.6	33.6	33.8	4.10	4.10	3.98

Data for current month are preliminary.

Averages are based on gross earnings, including overtime and premium pay.

Selected Industries series began January 1950; Total Private Sector series began January 1969 (May 1972 issue).

Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

MONTANA LABOR TURNOVER RATES
In Manufacturing and Mining Industries
(per 100 employees)

	ACCESSION RATES						SEPARATION RATES								
	Total			New Hires			Total			Quits			Layoffs		
	Nov. 1978	Oct. 1978	Nov. 1977	Nov. 1978	Oct. 1978	Nov. 1977	Nov. 1978	Oct. 1978	Nov. 1977	Nov. 1978	Oct. 1978	Nov. 1977	Nov. 1978	Oct. 1978	Nov. 1977
MANUFACTURING	0.2	3.6	1.8	0.2	3.2	1.3	0.3	2.2	4.1	0.1	1.5	1.3	0.2	0.3	2.3
Durable Goods	1.0	2.0	1.4	1.8	1.7	0.8	1.7	2.1	2.3	0.5	1.4	0.6	0.7	0.2	1.3
Primary Metal Industries	1.3	1.9	1.0	0.7	1.2	0.6	2.6	2.3	3.0	0.4	1.2	0.5	1.4	0.2	1.6
Nondurable Goods	5.3	6.5	2.6	5.3	6.0	2.1	7.2	2.5	7.1	3.1	1.7	2.4	3.4	0.6	4.1
MINING	3.4	5.0	2.9	2.5	4.1	0.6	3.8	3.8	4.4	3.1	2.8	2.8	0.1	0.6	0.4
Metal Mining	1.2	1.2	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.1	1.5	1.5	2.9	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.4	1.2

* Less than .05.
Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
Series began January 1959.

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY INDUSTRY

New business firms in Montana are a reflection of economic activity within the business community. Data furnished on this page and the following page are an aggregate of information supplied by the office of the Montana Secretary of State and the Montana Employment Security Division. These data should in no way be construed as being absolute. They are presented to indicate business trends during the survey period.

The chart on the following page is a break-down by county and labor market area of business starts in Montana during the current month and year to date, with a comparison to the previous year.

The following chart is a break-down of new businesses by industry, with a comparison to last year.

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Dec.</u> <u>1978</u>	<u>Dec.</u> <u>1977</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	
			<u>1978</u>	<u>1977</u>
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND FISHERIES	44	36	354	285
MINING	4	18	118	146
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	49	51	937	840
MANUFACTURING	10	15	254	210
TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION, ELECTRIC, GAS, AND SANITARY SERVICES	12	6	180	168
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	79	94	1,281	1,223
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	27	26	458	429
SERVICES	108	111	1,511	1,396
GOVERNMENT	6	0	6	0
NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED	0	0	103	73
STATE TOTAL	339	357	5,202	4,770

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY LABOR MARKET AREA

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS					NEW BUSINESS FIRMS				
Areas	Dec. 1978	Dec. 1977	Year to Date		Areas	Dec. 1978	Dec. 1977	Year to Date	
			1978	1977				1978	1977
STATE OF MONTANA	339	357	5202	4770	HAVRE LMA	11	17	155	157
					Blaine	2	1	27	22
GREAT FALLS SMSA	32	35	441	508	Hill	6	10	106	105
					Liberty	3	6	22	30
BILLINGS SMSA	67	60	877	781	HELENA LMA	19	34	388	381
					Broadwater	1	1	17	22
					Jefferson	2	3	45	22
					Lewis and Clark	16	30	326	337
ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA	17	19	345	314	KALISPELL LMA	38	43	657	586
Beaverhead	4	1	59	41	Flathead	24	30	449	397
Deer Lodge	1	1	23	30	Lake	8	5	115	105
Granite	0	0	12	8	Lincoln	6	8	93	84
Madison	1	1	39	33	LEWISTOWN LMA	6	5	112	106
Powell	2	4	34	23	Fergus	5	4	72	73
Silver Bow	9	12	178	179	Golden Valley	0	0	3	3
BOZEMAN LMA	30	25	534	427	Judith Basin	0	0	7	8
Gallatin	25	21	433	346	Musselshell	0	1	19	17
Meagher	0	0	17	5	Petroleum	1	0	3	0
Park	5	4	84	76	Wheatland	0	0	8	5
GLASGOW LMA	14	14	140	139	MILES CITY LMA	7	13	140	144
Daniels	1	1	5	15	Carter	0	0	9	8
Phillips	4	3	20	21	Custer	5	5	65	77
Roosevelt	3	3	46	29	Fallon	0	2	17	15
Sheridan	3	4	27	27	Powder River	1	1	17	5
Valley	3	3	42	47	Rosebud	1	4	30	33
GLENDIVE LMA	16	10	214	163	Treasure	0	1	2	6
Dawson	3	2	62	47	MISSOULA LMA	55	47	825	757
Garfield	3	0	12	7	Mineral	2	2	21	15
McCone	1	0	10	12	Missoula	43	38	601	578
Prairie	3	0	12	17	Ravalli	9	4	150	114
Richland	5	8	111	78	Sanders	1	3	53	50
Wibaux	1	0	7	2	SHELBY-CUT BANK LMA	18	27	234	205
HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA	9	8	140	102	Chouteau	0	5	24	22
Big Horn	4	4	44	34	Glacier	6	5	71	45
Carbon	1	4	46	38	Pondera	4	8	52	55
Stillwater	3	0	27	21	Teton	1	3	28	19
Sweet Grass	1	0	23	9	Toole	7	6	59	64

Source of data: State of Montana Employment Security Division, Research and Analysis Section; Montana Secretary of State.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE: CLAIM TO PAYMENT

Many of those persons who become separated from their jobs, enter our local Job Service offices for two reasons; to seek employment and to claim unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. Claimant wage credits obtained from insured employers are examined to determine if the claim meets monetary eligibility requirements for UI benefits and, if so, for how much per week and for how many potential weeks is the claimant qualified. Monetarily eligible claims are subsequently segregated according to criteria for establishing which party (claimant or employer) was most responsible for the job separation in question. Claims for job separations resulting from claimant actions (issues) are further subjected to the test of whether or not an individual's reduction in his potential benefit duration is warranted. If otherwise eligible and if availability criteria continue to be complied with throughout his actual unemployment duration, weekly benefit payments will commence with the claimant's second week of unemployment (a waiting week must be served under the Montana Law). The number and amount of such payments by county are shown in the table on the following page. Interstate payments in the table refer to payments made to individuals who now reside in other states but who had established wage credits in Montana based employment. Amounts shown in the table are financed through employer taxes paid to the Montana UI Trust Fund Account.

ETAS-150H DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
DECEMBER 1973

COUNTY	COUNT	AMOUNT
BEAVERHEAD	180	10,522.44
BIGHORN	232	19,230.24
BLAINE	165	12,378.82
BROADWATER	61	5,745.15
CARPIS	289	20,925.45
CARTER	18	1,435.00
CASCADE	4,609	387,260.50
CHITEAU	107	8,674.74
CLUSTER	441	37,750.53
DANIELS	17	1,082.00
DAWSON	187	16,613.00
DEER LODGE	710	58,838.70
FALLON	39	3,354.00
FELKES	379	32,613.79
FLATHEAD	2,428	189,970.82
GALLATIN	1,570	124,819.95
GARFIELD	22	1,070.00
GLACIER	745	57,778.24
GOLDEN VALLEY	6	554.00
GRANITE	138	11,855.30
HILL	403	32,682.18
JEFFERSON	281	27,419.00
JUDITH BASIN	22	1,675.00
LAKE	671	52,876.31
LEWIS AND CLARK	2,271	190,613.72
LIBERTY	58	5,249.00
LINCOLN	1,102	90,534.23
MCCONE	20	1,803.00
MADISON	78	6,030.78
MEAGHER	72	6,938.00
MINERAL	230	13,102.26
MISSOULA	3,672	290,764.40
MUSSEL SHELL	85	7,056.00
PARK	559	39,984.17
PETROLEUM	5	520.00
PHILLIPS	111	10,006.00
PONDERA	249	22,220.15
POWDER RIVER	31	2,917.00
POWELL	275	21,690.67
PRAIRIE	45	4,027.00
RAVALLI	1,009	72,805.35
RICHLAND	55	4,013.24
ROOSEVELT	188	14,232.67
ROSEBUD	345	30,554.07
SANDERS	432	32,482.67
SHERIDAN	10	949.00
SILVER BOW	2,415	199,673.47
STILLWATER	160	15,490.00
SWEET GRASS	27	2,509.17
TETON	171	13,250.56
TEGEE	170	13,691.78
TREASURE	20	1,950.92
VALLEY	205	23,922.13
WHEATLAND	45	4,336.00
WILAUX	8	594.00
YELLOWSTONE	3,737	328,539.62
INTRA STATE	31,732	2,616,192.60
INTER STATE	1,227	115,285.33
TOTAL	(41) 32,959	2,731,477.93

I. CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
JANUARY 1978 THRU DECEMBER 1978

COUNTY	COUNT	AMOUNT
BEAVERHEAD	2,150	165,156.25
BIGHORN	3,452	274,011.48
BLAINE	2,494	179,521.52
BROADWATER	974	69,418.89
CARBON	2,562	244,977.48
CARTER	283	20,313.00
CASCADE	38,234	2,955,023.34
CHOUTEAU	1,156	74,956.94
CUSTER	3,821	305,035.57
DANIELS	501	34,140.76
DAWSON	2,577	202,048.40
DEER LODGE	11,306	932,358.38
FALLON	819	60,577.04
FERGUS	4,191	331,087.57
FLATHEAD	27,193	2,085,146.51
GALLATIN	13,975	1,074,629.89
GARFIELD	226	16,514.63
GLACIER	8,382	622,064.83
GOLDEN VALLEY	140	8,557.00
GRANITE	1,787	141,233.16
HILL	5,208	389,736.55
JEFFERSON	2,900	254,992.66
JUDITH BASIN	923	76,626.21
LAKE	7,198	527,042.53
LEWIS AND CLARK	21,270	1,692,510.58
LIBERTY	523	40,683.00
LINCOLN	13,728	1,065,913.94
MCCONE	487	40,264.00
MADISON	1,088	82,532.03
MEAGHER	729	57,646.84
MINERAL	1,900	148,615.14
MISSOULA	37,580	2,829,528.63
MUSSELSHELL	1,200	96,639.68
PARK	5,253	370,526.63
PETROLEUM	48	4,501.00
PHILLIPS	1,594	118,223.25
PONDERA	1,821	145,538.90
POWDER RIVER	242	22,148.00
POWELL	3,389	255,192.03
PRAIRIE	489	44,614.00
RAVALLI	9,013	633,816.61
RICHLAND	1,410	107,704.44
ROOSEVELT	3,183	218,376.41
ROSEBUD	3,728	309,706.37
SANDERS	5,071	386,649.86
SHERIDAN	639	42,253.04
SILVER BOW	31,581	2,520,287.03
STILLWATER	1,509	122,938.28
SWEET GRASS	387	23,339.17
TETON	1,427	105,953.37
TIGGLE	1,750	136,278.74
TREASURE	227	21,985.92
VALLEY	4,431	325,423.58
WHEATLAND	529	42,506.00
WIBAUX	191	14,204.00
YELLOWSTONE	40,571	3,278,401.02
INTRASTATE	341,833	26,612,968.49
INTERSTATE	18,642	2,039,416.31
TOTAL	360,475	(42) 28,652,384.80

SELECTED UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTIVITIES IN MONTANA

YEAR-TO-DATE

	1978	1977	Net Change	Percent Change
Initial Claims ^{1/}	45,747	47,340	-1,593	-3.4
Continued Claims ^{1/}	453,449	443,169	10,280	2.3
Number of Benefit Payments ^{1/}	360,616	377,412	-16,796	-4.4
Amount of Benefits Paid ^{1/}	\$28,652,423	\$28,637,087	\$15,336	0.1
Average Weekly Benefit Amount ^{1/2/}	\$84.24	\$79.57	\$4.67	5.9

MONTHLY

	Dec. 1978	Nov. 1978	Dec. 1977	Change From Year Ago Net	Percent
Initial Claims ^{1/}	4,590	5,311	4,933	-343	-7.0
Continued Claims ^{1/}	40,398	30,034	49,386	-8,988	-18.2
Number of Benefit Payments ^{1/}	32,959	21,375	34,226	-1,267	-3.7
Amount of Benefits Paid ^{1/}	\$2,731,478	\$1,715,146	\$2,633,652	\$97,826	3.7
Avg. Weekly Benefit Amt ^{1/2/}	\$86.67	\$83.90	\$80.81	\$5.86	7.3
Trust Fund Balance	\$4,173,854*	\$6,681,504*	-\$2,404,503**	\$6,578,357	273.6

^{1/} Regular Unemployment Insurance Program only.

^{2/} Derived according to definition in "Handbook of Unemployment Insurance Financial Data".

* Excludes Loans from Federal Government, which amount to \$10,484,089

** Excludes Loans from Federal Government, which amount to \$ 9,284,089

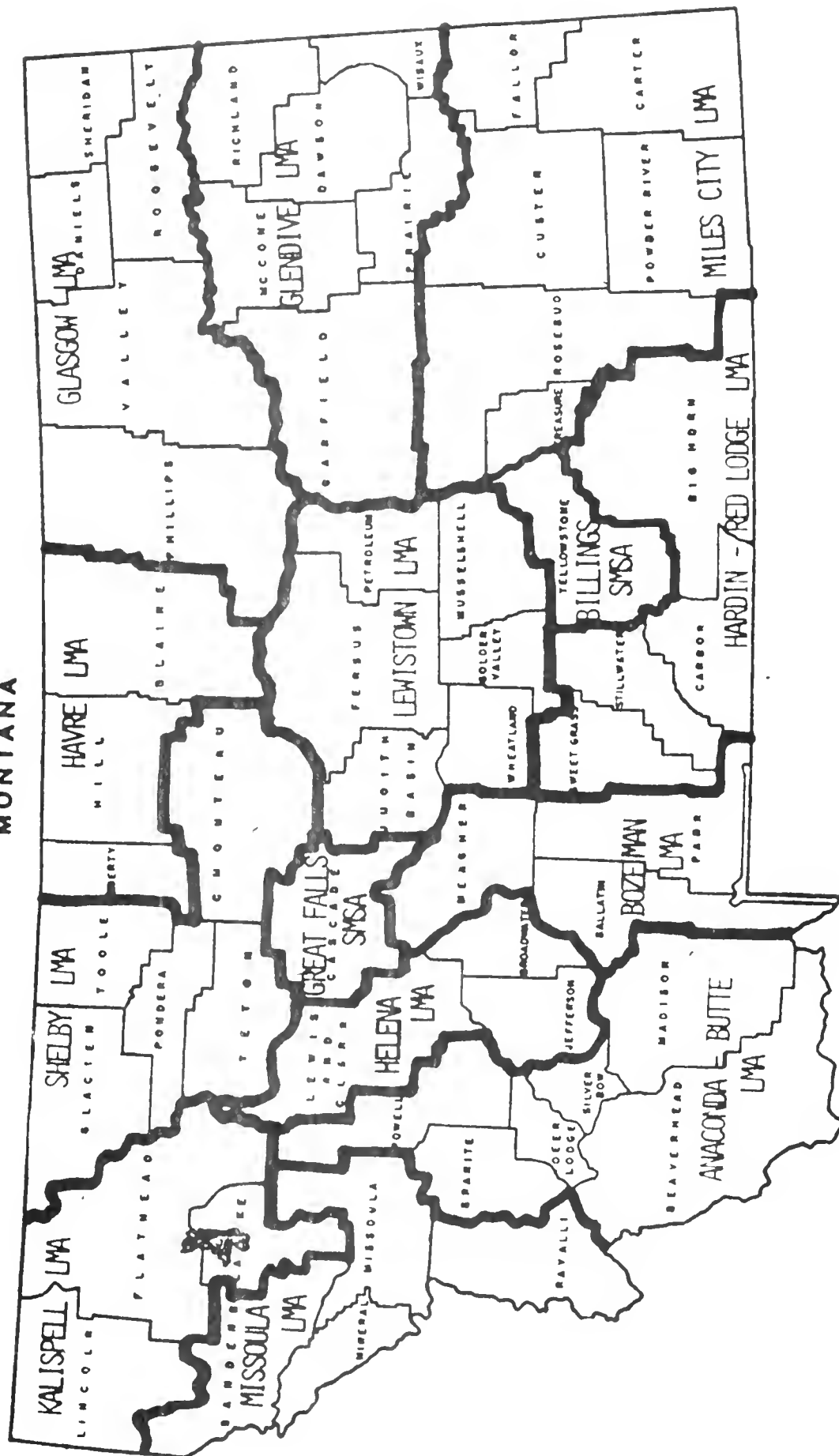
Initial claims dropped from last month but continued claims showed the normal seasonal increase. Both statistics were lower this December than a year ago. Again this month the year-to-date total for initial claims is less than in 1977 and continued claims again are considerably ahead of a year ago.

The number of benefit payments and the amount of benefits paid continued to rise this month. The amount paid was also higher than a year ago, but the number of payments was smaller. The same trend was noted in the year-to-date totals, fewer payments but slightly larger dollar amount. Maximum benefit amounts were raised on July 1, 1978 and this partially accounts for increased amount of benefits paid.

The average weekly benefit amount (AWBA) was higher in December than last month and last year, and the year-to-date AWBA again shows an increase from the 1977 amount.

The trust fund balance was down this month from November's total but compares very favorably with the deficit balance of a year ago. The early onset of cold and snow over the whole state has been quite unusual but has not depressed the economy as much as would be expected.

IN
MONTANA



EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
P. O. Box 1728
Helena, MT 59601

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
LAB-449



OFFICIAL BUSINESS

The Montana State Employment Security Division maintains 23 local Job Service Offices in the principal cities of Montana. You are invited to call on any of these offices for assistance in filling positions in your organization, additional labor market information, and for other services in connection with your employment problems.